

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 13, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-172)

TO: Jamie Swan
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWU-4

Proposed Action: Gravel Push-Up Dam Removal, Lower North Fork John Day – Portable Pump Intake Screens

Project No: 1998-017-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 4.23 Intake and Return Diversion Screens

Location: Grant County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the North Fork John Day Watershed Council

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a fish passage improvement effort on North Fork John Day River with the North Fork John Day Watershed Council. This effort proposes to install passive fish screens on portable pump intakes. The screens and associated pipe and fittings are removable and their installation will not require any ground disturbance or instream work. These components will be placed by hand or by boom-truck or similar equipment working from above the ordinary high water level and will be removed each year after cessation of irrigation. All screens will be utilized in accordance with NOAA Fisheries screening criteria. The goal of this effort is to allow irrigators to serve their water rights without undertaking instream modifications such as the construction of temporary gravel push-up dams.

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Alex Conley with the North Fork John Day Watershed Council (August 12, 2004) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area are Mid-Columbia River steelhead, bull trout and bald eagle. It was determined that the proposed pump intake screen projects would have no effect on these species. The projects will not involve any ground disturbance, construction or demolition activities. All screens will be utilized in accordance with NOAA Fisheries screening criteria. A no effect determination was provided by Alex Conley with the North Fork John Day Watershed Council (August 11, 2004).

The proposed portable pump intake screen projects do not involve any ground disturbance, construction or demolition activities. BPA has determined that the project has no potential to affect cultural and/or historic resources. Requirements associated with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act are therefore not triggered. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is discovered during project implementation, an archaeologist should be notified immediately and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices should be followed during the implementation of the portable pump intake screen projects. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals.

Public involvement has occurred as part of the North Fork John Day portable pump intake screen projects. Projects have been discussed with the North Fork John Day Watershed Council, the Monument Soil and Water Conservation District, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Warm Springs and Umatilla Tribes, and affected landowners. Projects have been discussed at monthly Watershed Council and Monument Soil and Water Conservation District meetings and have been reported on in mailings and minutes associated with these meetings.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon Stewart 8-13-04

Shannon C. Stewart

Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

DATE: 8-13-04

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

No Effect Determination

cc: (w/ attachments)

Mr. Alex Conley – North Fork John Day Watershed Council